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CZAR LONELY AND GLOOMY

INFLUENCES THAT RULE THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

The Grand Dukes Fast Disappearing Only Funeral Masses Bring the Czars to St. Petersburg—Stolypin's Power—Will Nicholas Turn Heir?

St. Petersburg, Feb. 21.—The old order changed, the brotherhood of grand dukes is disappearing. In three months the Czars' two senior uncles have been removed by death; others, the junior collateral members of the house of Romanov, are eliminated successively by disease.

The other day it was Nicholas Nikolaevich, deposed from the presidency of the Council of Imperial Defense, now it is his brother Peter Nikolaevich, removed from the inspector-general of military engineering, both of them cousins of the czar. As the ranks of his kinsmen thin out around the throne the spectacle of the lonely, melancholy little ruler fills more space in the public eye.

It is a literal fact that the only inducement that has succeeded in bringing the czar to his capital in the last four years has been to hear the burial service or masses for the repose of the souls of his dead relatives. It was so when he suddenly appeared for the inauguration of the memorial church which rears its gorgeous Byzantine shape near the Termini Canal on the spot where his grandfather, Alexander II, fell to the nihilists' bomb.

Within an hour of his uncle Vladimir's death the other day he was speeding in an automobile from Tsarskoe-Selo to the Palace Quay in St. Petersburg—to the consternation of his unwarned police shadowers—to be in time to hear the clergy read the first "panihida." Between then and the final laying to rest of the Grand Duke in the fortress church of Peter-Paul the czar stood through five services of inordinate length.

He has finally classed himself as the melancholy monarch, just as his father stood for the supreme type of taciturn disciplinarian and his grandfather, Alexander II, for the generous, pliable and fanciful Slav of fabulous tradition. People remark the contrast between Vladimir and the czar and speculate on how Russia will be affected by their ruler's turning more and more inward to his own ruminations.

Opinion abroad decided from the outset of Russia's present troubles to speak of the Grand Dukes or the Grand Ducal coterie or camarilla as being much the same accursed visitation to the body politic that the present cholera epidemic is to public health. This opinion is founded on fairly sound instinct, but it is not anything like an explanation of the influence that rule the czar. Especially is it misleading if it suggests that the dying out of his male relatives is likely to make him a more amenable modern politician. All the signs point to the contrary.

Vladimir was wholly free from the fatalistic gloom that has marked Nicholas II. for his own. The dead Grand Duke was before everything a viveur. He lived to gratify his senses; anything like the performance of sustained, plodding duty was displeasing to him.

He took no personal initiative in organizing the shooting down of the St. Petersburg workmen four years ago, yet he was blamed for it rightly enough. His name was signed to the orders to the troops and he could have withheld his name as military commander in the capital had he had the energy and seriousness to inform himself for what the mass of the people were agitating. When he learned from the foreign press that his name had been given to a cruel massacre he wept copiously and sent for reporters to whitewash himself.

Aside from this Vladimir had a pleasant renown among the people of St. Petersburg than most of his brothers. His sympathy with art was genuine and discriminating. He would have made an interesting man of fashion if he had not been clothed with responsibility for military and state affairs until almost the last years of his life.

In his final coolness with the czar he had the support of most Russians of the upper class. His eldest son, Cyril, had married the divorced wife of the Duke of Hesse, brother of the Czarina. The latter in her wrath prevailed on the czar to strike Cyril's name off the list of Russian naval officers.

Vladimir, who had no narrow scruples on the question of matrimony, resented this disgrace on his son and resigned all his offices. It is significant that although Cyril was forgiven and restored to his naval rank three months ago, after the death of the Grand Duke Alexis, he has not returned from abroad for his father's funeral, nor has his arch enemy the Czarina left her palace to attend any of the services.

Who is there left that can be called Grand Duke in any political sense? The czar's only surviving uncle, the Grand Duke Paul, has his permanent residence in France, also because of matrimonial considerations. He eloped with the wife of a Russian officer, and from that moment was dead so far as the family life of the court is concerned, for the reigning Czarina is as rigid on the question of marriage as was her grandmother, Queen Victoria of England.

Circumstances and Mr. Stolypin have been too strong for the other Grand Dukes. They are being pushed out one by one from their titular appointments in the Russian army, and none of them has the mentality to make himself a private power behind the throne.

Their downfall is not the fruit of radical agitation. It was first heralded by Mr. Goutchkoff, the Moscow "Octobrist," who represents the Government on the floor of the House in the Duma. He and the moderate Whigs, who support Mr. Stolypin, declared that the elimination of the Grand Dukes from places of command must be a condition precedent to the professional reform of the army.

The one fight that was made was by Nicholas Nikolaevich, the unlabeled mariner, who succeeded Vladimir as commander of the St. Petersburg troops. Harmony was impossible when he and the Prime Minister were at the same council table. Mr. Stolypin refused to give way; the czar was afraid to dissuade him, because he saw in the inevitable turmoil that would follow the hated vision of Count Witte rising again to leadership.

POISONING PRAIRIE DOGS.

They Are a Serious Pest to Western Farmers and Stockmen.

Who would think that the prairie dog, the shy and amusing little rodent that we like to watch before the door of his burrow at the zoo, would ever become the subject of Government intervention or endanger the success of stock raising? Yet such is the fact, says the *Technical World*.

Out on the national forests which Uncle Sam is guarding for the use of the public expert hunters have gone after the prairie dogs with zeal—and poison—and the work will go on yet more vigorously next year. In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the work an area of some 50,000 to 75,000 acres of actual dogtown was selected for the test by the United States Forest Service. From 80 to 90 per cent. of the dogs were killed with the first distribution of the poison.

The poison is prepared by coating wheat with a preparation of strychnine, cyanide of potassium, anise oil and molasses. When a sufficient quantity is ready the poisoned wheat is carried to the field of operations. There the stockmen gladly supply men and horses, and the wheat is given out to the riders and distribution begins.

Each rider carries the wheat in a tin pail supported by a gunny sack slung across his right shoulder and hanging at his left side. His left hand is free for the reins. With his right hand he uses a tablespoon to measure out the poison and drop it near the entrance of the holes.

Little practice enables the men to drop the wheat while keeping their horses on a sharp trot. By crossing the town to and fro, like a man sowing grain, they can cover a large area in a surprisingly short time.

It is necessary to go over the ground a second time, and by spotting the occupied holes the remaining dogs will easily be killed with a very small amount of poison. The average cost an acre for

the poisoning material is one and one-half cents. Prairie dogs are very obnoxious to the stockmen, for they devour much grass and undermine the surface of the ground with their burrows. Where they establish themselves the destruction of the range is only a question of time. While it is hard to say just what amount of feed a prairie dog will consume in the way of grass, it has been estimated by the United States Biological Survey that thirty-two prairie dogs will consume as much grass as one sheep, or 250 dogs as much as one cow.

GOING ABOUT IN CHINA.

Usual Sedan Chair in the Crowded, Noisy Streets of the Cities.

Canton correspondence Denver Post. There are but two ways to go about the Chinese city—on foot or in a sedan chair. The streets are from four to eight feet wide, the average being probably about six feet, and wheeled vehicles are out of the question. Even the jinrikisha cannot be used here. If you try to make your way on foot the density of the moving masses renders progress almost impossible and rowdies and pickpockets are numerous, so that the best plan is to take a responsible native guide and chairs.

These chairs are carried by two, three and sometimes four men, according to the weight of the passenger. The two bamboo poles by which the chair is supported are about eighteen feet long and are joined at the front and rear ends by a crosspiece. After you have taken your seat the coolies raise the ends of the poles to their shoulders and are off at a dog trot, only interrupted by a congestion of traffic, which occurs very frequently.

It is surprising to see how rapidly they can go through the crowded streets; the line of the coolies' carriers is yelling all the time, as are the other people who are carrying burdens, for as there are no carts in use the entire merchandise of the city is transported in the same manner, not in chairs of course but slung on poles carried across the shoulders.

The noise resulting from the simultaneous shouting of every one in sight, both in front and in the rear, for the stream is flowing in both directions, is enough to make one wonder if the long expected riot has not begun.

BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS.

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What Is Value-in-PIANOS

WHAT is it you hope to buy when you purchase a piano? Surely not merely a carved and polished case, an article of furniture to fill a space, or a piece of mechanism to grind out street tunes, on which some dealers stencil untold names, and for which they ask a big enough price to protect them from loss when their so called "guarantee" fails.

Highest Standard Required

in the art world. It is the artistic quality of the music which a piano produces that measures its value. That value can only become permanent or fixed after the piano has had years of test in the art world. One of the greatest protections to the purchaser of a *STERLING PIANO* is the fact that our manufacturing and selling experience extends over a period of 49 years. It has given us a knowledge of pianos and their real worth which no one can buy or sell.

Sterling Pianos

have gained not only an enviable reputation in every part of the world for their highest standard of musical qualities, but they have a price value that always gives the purchaser a positive asset. Not infrequently a dealer puts an exalted value on a piano which he takes in exchange on the purchase of a new one. When this is done, one of two things must happen in order that the dealer may protect himself from loss.

That is, the price he gets for the piano he sells must be very much more than its real worth, or he intends to make up the difference by selling the exchanged piano for a greatly exaggerated price. Some one suffers. Are you safe in buying a piano under such conditions?

We always allow the full market value for any piano we take in exchange and our reputation positively protects you against any chance of an exaggerated price in either case.

We have the

Largest Exclusive Piano Business

in Greater New York, and as we own and operate our factories we can not only save you money on your purchase, but give you pianos that have an indisputable reputation and those qualities of service that last a lifetime.

The Sterling Piano Co.

518-520 Fulton Street, cor. Hanover Place, Brooklyn
Open Saturday Evenings Till 10 o'clock

BROOKLYN FURNITURE CO.

CREDIT TERMS.

EASY TO BUY, EASY TO PAY, EVERYTHING FOR HOUSEKEEPING.

35c. Worth - 50c. Weekly.

60	75
100	150
150	200
250	350

MONTHLY PAYMENTS IF DESIRED. LOW PRICES MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.

FULTON ST. DEKALB AV.

FREDERICK LOESER & CO.

BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS.

FREDERICK LOESER & CO.

Frederick Loeser & Co.

In every detail the Leading Retail Establishment of Brooklyn.

The Subway to Hoyt Street Brings the Loeser Store Within 17 Minutes of Forty-second Street.

\$2 to \$3.50 French Kid Long Gloves, \$1. 8 to 16 Button Mousquetaires : Marvelous Value.

The Sale Tomorrow in Special Space on the Second Floor

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ever made in the country concerning women's long Mousquetaire Gloves of the finest real French Kid. It is a fact story. It shows the possibilities of a real initiative. It makes a new price on long Gloves that will have an influence all over the United States and make it possible to buy long Gloves for less than they ever cost before.

There are 4,200 pairs of these Gloves. Every pair is of the finest real French Kid in either glove or suede finish. Every pair is absolutely perfect in cut, in sizing and in stitching. The lengths range from 8 to 16 button and there are none but the staple shades in the assortment.

They are the identical standard qualities now being sold all over the country for \$2 to \$3.50 a pair. To-morrow's price here will be \$1 a pair.

We shall give the Sale special space on the second floor. All arrangements have been made to provide prompt service to all who come. The accompanying details give some hint at the variety and character of the Gloves.

\$2.25 Suede 12 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 16 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 18 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 20 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 22 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 24 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 26 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

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\$2.25 Suede 196 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 198 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

\$2.25 Suede 200 Button Mousquetaires, \$1.

French and American

Summer Underwear

In the Greatest Offering Ever Made.

CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT NOT OCCUR AGAIN in ten years are back of the Sale. They brought to us straight from the Custom House a complete stock of new and perfect Underwear for men of the famous French "Raguet" make—garments made and imported for this spring's selling. They brought us also a fine stock of the well known "Otis" Underwear in summer weights.

They enable us to make the lowest prices on these garments that we have ever known on Underwear of equal grade and variety.

MEN'S UNDERWEAR.

\$1.50 and \$1.75 Underwear at \$1.

\$1 and \$1.25 Underwear at 75c.

\$1 Underwear at 50c.

50c. Underwear at 25c. 3 Garments for \$1.

\$1 to \$1.50 Underwear at 50c.

25c. and 35c. Underwear at 15c.

35c. Underwear at 25c.

50c. Underwear at 35c.

75c. Underwear at 40c.

WOMEN'S COMBINATION SUITS.

50c. Combination Suits at 35c.

35c. Combination Suits at 25c.

25c. Combination Suits at 15c.

CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR.

25c. and 35c. Underwear at 15c.

25c. Underwear at 10c.

A Very Remarkable Offering of Hosiery For Everybody.

WOMEN'S HOSE IN THREE PAIR LOTS.

3 Pairs for 50c. Regularly 75c. and 85c. a Pair.

3 Pairs for 75c. Regularly 1.00c. to 1.50c. a Pair.